



## Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission 2000 Fiscal Impact Review

**Bill Number:** SB743 as Introduced  
**Review Requested By:** Senator Williams  
**Chairman of:** Senate Transportation

### **Concur**

JLARC Staff concur with the fiscal impact statement referred for review

### **Concur with Reservations**

With the reservations noted below, JLARC staff concur with the fiscal impact statement referred for review

### **X Non-Concur**

As noted below, JLARC staff do not concur with the fiscal impact statement referred for review.

### **Bill Summary**

Requires the Superintendent of State Police to require each state police officer, during the course of his official duties regarding traffic stops, to record the race, ethnicity, gender, and age of each motorist stopped and the specific reason for the stop, when a routine traffic stop or a traffic stop for any traffic violation results in (i) a search of the motorist or his vehicle; (ii) the detaining of a motorist for questioning; or (iii) the charge or arrest of the motorist for the commission of an alleged criminal offense. The bill also requires the development of a mechanism for collecting, analyzing, interpreting, and reporting data and statistics generated through such traffic stop reports. The bill and its provisions would expire on July 1, 2002.

### **Fiscal Implications**

JLARC staff do not concur with the interpretation used by the Department of State Police (DSP) and the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) that all traffic stops, including stops at checkpoints, are appropriate for inclusion in calculating the cost of this bill. Background language contained in the "Whereas" portion of the bill focuses on selective enforcement, not stops made at checkpoints.

Under the JLARC staff reading of the bill, the cost of collecting and analyzing the data would be significantly lower because data would be collected on approximately one-third the number of State Police contacts used in their cost estimate. In addition, there are alternative methods of data collection which could further reduce the cost.

DSP estimates that in calendar year 1999, troopers had 3 million contacts (including stops and checkpoint contacts) with the motoring public. Only 1.09 million traffic stops were made, with the remaining 2 million being checkpoint contacts.

If all 3 million traffic and checkpoint stops are included, and 48 data entry clerks are required statewide, then the Department of State Police (DSP) estimate of \$2,933,394 for the biennium would appear reasonable.

If data is collected on the 1.09 million traffic stops instead of the 3 million total, data entry volume would be reduced by two-thirds, with a corresponding reduction of cost.

In addition, there are alternative and lower cost methodologies for data collection and entry. Potentially, far fewer clerical staff in a central location could enter the data, instead of DSP's proposed 48 full-time data entry clerks dispersed in area offices and working on mainframe terminals. Other technology, such as the use of a scannable form, could further reduce costs. Assuming 1.09 million contacts and central processing, JLARC staff estimate a cost of \$1 million for the biennium.

**Budget Amendment Necessary**

Yes, Items 491 and 493.

**Agencies Affected**

State Police - Department of

**Date Released, Prepared By:** 02/10/2000; Daniel Oney

JLARC Staff offer the above Fiscal Impact Review in Accordance with Item 16K of Chapter 935 (1999 Acts of Assembly).  
JLARC Fiscal Impact Reviews do not comment on the merits of the bill under review.